

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A bailer has a check valve housing at its leading end. A free-floating ball in the check valve housing is unseated and admits liquid fluid into the bailer as the bailer enters a body of liquid fluid. The free-floating ball is seated and seals the liquid fluid within the check valve housing against leakage when the bailer is retrieved from the body of liquid fluid. An annular valve seat is formed flush with a leading edge of the check valve housing and the free-floating ball has a diameter only slightly greater than the diameter of the annular valve seat. About half of the free-floating ball extends downwardly from the check valve housing. The structure prevents formation of an annular air pocket at the leading end of the check valve housing so that liquid fluid drained from the bailer is not contaminated by oxygen.